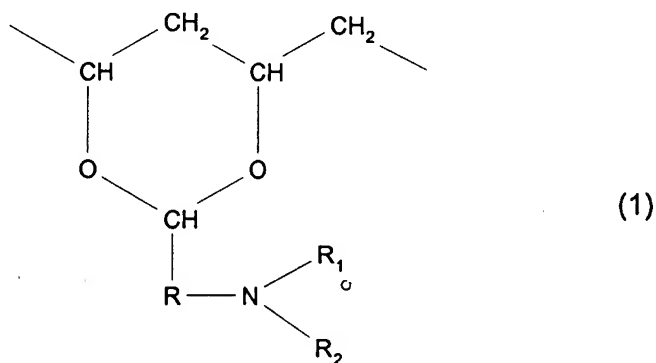


CLAIM AMENDMENTS

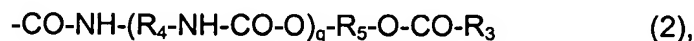
Please cancel claim 5 and amend claims 1, 3, 6-9, and 11-13 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) Process for the manufacture of a molding comprising the steps:
 - a) preparing an aqueous solution comprising ~~a water-soluble prepolymer having crosslinkable groups and a further polymer which is devoid of crosslinkable groups,~~
 - (i) a water-soluble prepolymer having crosslinkable groups, wherein the water-soluble prepolymer is present in the aqueous solution in an amount of from 5% to 60% by weight, and
 - (ii) a further compatible polymer in an amount sufficient to reduce mold opening forces required for opening a closed mold in which a molding is to be produced from the aqueous solution, wherein the further polymer is present in the aqueous solution in an amount of from 0.1% to 10% by weight, wherein the further polymer is devoid of crosslinkable groups, and wherein the further polymer forms a clear aqueous solution with the prepolymer having crosslinkable groups,
 - b) introducing the solution obtained into a mold,
 - c) triggering the crosslinking, and
 - d) opening the mold such that the molding can be removed from the mold.
2. (Original) A process according to claim 1, wherein the crosslinkable prepolymer having crosslinkable groups is a derivative of a polyvinyl alcohol having a molecular weight of at least about 2 000 that, based on the number of hydroxy groups of the polyvinyl alcohol, comprises from approximately 0.5 to approximately 80 % of units of formula



wherein R is C₁-C₈-alkylene, R₁ is hydrogen or C₁-C₇-alkyl and R₂ is an olefinically unsaturated, electron-attracting, copolymerizable radical preferably having up to 25 carbon atoms.

3. (Currently amended) The process of claim 2, ~~A radical according to claim 2,~~ wherein R₂ is a radical of formula



wherein q is zero or one and R₄ and R₅ are each independently C₂-C₈-alkylene, C₆-C₁₂-arylene, a saturated divalent C₆-C₁₀-cycloaliphatic group, C₇-C₁₄-arylenealkylene or C₇-C₁₄-alkylenearylene or C₁₃-C₁₆-arylenealkylenearylene, and R₃ is C₂-C₈-alkenyl.

4. (Original) A process according to claim 2, wherein R is C₁-C₄-alkylene, R₁ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl, and R₂ is a radical R₃-CO-, in which R₃ is C₂-C₄-alkenyl.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 24, wherein the further polymer being devoid of a ~~polymerizable~~ crosslinkable group in step a) is a polyacrylamide, N,N-dimethyl acrylamide, polyvinyl pyrrolidone or a polyoxyethylene derivative.

7. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 24, wherein the further polymer being devoid of a ~~polymerizable~~ crosslinkable group in step a) is a polyethylene-polypropylene block copolymer.

8. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 24, wherein the further polymer being devoid of a ~~polymerizable~~ crosslinkable group in step a) is present in the aqueous solution in an amount of from 0.5 to 10 % by weight, based on the entire weight of the aqueous solution.

9. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 24, wherein according to step c) the prepolymer is photocrosslinked in the presence of a photoinitiator.

10. (Original) A process according to claim 9, wherein the photocrosslinking is carried out for a time period of less than five minutes.

11. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 24, wherein the molding is a biomedical device. ~~for the manufacture of a biomedical molding.~~

12. (Currently amended) A molding obtainable by the process of claim 1.

13. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the further polymer being devoid of a ~~polymerizable~~ crosslinkable group in step a) is present in the aqueous solution in an amount of from 0.5 to 3 % by weight, based on the entire weight of the aqueous solution.

14. (Original) A process according to claim 11, wherein the biomedical molding is a contact lens, intraocular lens or artificial cornea.